Condolence Motions

1. On the demise of Mr. V. K. Kochunny Menon

***Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development)*:* Sir, I beg leave of this House to give me permission to move this condolence motion: "*This House places on record its deep sense of sorrow on the sad demise of Mr. V. K. Kochunny Menon its first Deputy President.*" By virtue of the position I hold it has been my misfortune to discharge this melancholy task of moving condolence resolutions during almost all the sittings of this House. The subject of this condolence resolution is so well known that I do not think a long speech is necessary to commend this resolution to the unanimous acceptance of this House.

Mr. Kochunny Menon was born as a member of the ancient aristocratic family of Kuruppath in Trichur. This family has left its impress upon the intellectual, cultural, educational and material progress of the State, and the members of this family, both men and women, have done not a little to enrich the cultural and the material progress of this State. Mr. Kochunny Menon was born more than 80 years ago. After graduation, he practised for some time in British India and then he came to Cochin State and settled down to practice. After some years, he was directly, I believe, promoted to the bench as the District Judge, and in that capacity he has discharged his duties for a number of years. I understand from no less an authority than the Secretary to the Government that his advocacy at the bar was of a very high order and during the close of his career, he, as a lawyer in Ernakulam, was a tower of strength and a great source of help to the bench. Mr. Kochunny Menon, after retirement, entered into public life and he became a member of this House and he was the first Deputy President of this House. As a Deputy President he discharged his duties with that spirit of impartiality and forbearance which we always used to associate with the distinguished occupants in the chair. I remember very well the great forbearance shown to many members—more often to me than to any other member in this House. His courtesy, his kindliness of nature and his spirit of forbearance endeared all the members to him, and when once an occasion arose to ascertain the dignity of the chair, Mr. Kochunny Menon was not found wanting and he put up a fight to sustain the dignity of the chair.

After his retirement from public life he continued to practice for some time; but lately, I believe a few years ago, he retired from his practice at the bar. Though he retired from the bar he

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member

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was actively taking part in various industrial and commercial activities and his advice was always sought and valued by various concerns working in the State. When I saw him a few days ago, about four or five days prior to his death, I never thought that death was so near, because with his usual military looking eyes he has been passing through the street and the weight of 80 years did not seem to have bent his back. But the margin between life and death is so narrow and meagre that sometimes one passes from the one to the other with startling suddenness. It has been so in this case. He was quite well when he went to bed, but before dawn he had ceased his breath.

I do not think that I should say anything more except that his relation with his clients and his method of advocacy and the way he behaved as Deputy President all endeared him to the clients as well as to the House. In his death this House has lost a prominent ex-member of this House, the people have lost a leader for whom they have great respect and reverence and His Highness, a very loyal and devoted subject. I move that the House be pleased to pass this condolence resolution unanimously.

2. On the demise of Mr. C. Barton Wright

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Mr. President, Sir, I rise to request this Council to place on record its deep sorrow on the sad demise of Mr. C. Barton Wright and to request the Hon'ble President to convey to the family of the demised the heartfelt condolence of the President and the Members of the Legislative Council on their sad bereavement. Sir, I concede it would be an act of superogation to detail the life and achievements of Mr. Barton Wright because they are so well known to almost all of us. He was the third son of the late Mr. William Barton Wright, the chief Mechanical Engineer of the Madras and the Lancashire and Yorkshire railways. He was born at Ootacamund on the 14th July 1862. Educated in England, Germany and France, he used the education and the knowledge he had obtained in developing the planting industry. He started life as a planter under Messrs. Parry and Co., on the Vellarimallais in South Wynad. He was the Manager of the Balamadies Estate and later was Manager and visiting agent of several other estates in the Nilgiris and Wynad. He was recruiting agent for some time under Mr. Rosa. In September 1913 he was appointed as the Manager of the Pudukkad Rubber Co., Ltd. and continued as such till November 1927. He then retired on pension. He was the Sales Manager of the Government Stoneware Works, Chalakkudi, Managing Agent under the Cochin Government of the Vaniampara Rubber Co., Ltd., Trichur, Managing Director, the Cochin Orchards and Canneries Ltd., Trichur, the Hotel Terminus, Ltd., Ernakulam, Managing Partner, the

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Bitherookkadu Estate, Nellakotta (Nilgiris), was member representing the Planters Constituency in the Cochin Legislative Council, Justice of the Peace and special First Class Magistrate, Cochin State. He lived as is now clear from what I have stated a very active and useful life. In his death Cochin in general and the Planting Industry in particular have lost a very valuable member. I move this resolution for the unanimous acceptance of this House.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Mr. President, Sir, I associate myself with all the sentiments expressed by the movers of these two motions, on the demise of Mr. Kochunni Menon and Mr. Barton Wright. The qualities of their head and heart have been so well exhausted by the hon'ble members that I think it would be superfluous to reiterate them. Against providential orders what we can do is only to pray that their souls may rest in peace and offer our condolences to their bereaved families.

Mr. President : I also associate myself with all that has been said about the two distinguished subjects of Cochin State who have passed away. They have distinguished themselves not only as members of this Council but in every walk of life, and their death is certainly a great loss to the State and I would ask the hon'ble members to stand up in their seats.

The Motions were passed, all the members standing as a mark of respect to the deceased

Statement placed on the table

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Sir, Under section 58 of the Legislative Council Rules, I beg to place the following statement of expenditure authorised by Government under section 28 (1) (c) of the Government of Cochin Act, 1113.

Serial No.	*Head of Account*	*Amount Rs.*	*Remarks*
1	3. Village Panchayats B Contribution to Village Panchayats— Communications— Original	5,800	For the execution of relief works the allotment in the budget was found insufficient and hence additional allotment had to be sanctioned urgently

Amendment to Rules under the State Aid to Industries Act

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Sir, I beg to place on the Council table a copy of the amendment to Rule 11 of the Rules under the Cochin State Aid to Industries Act, X of 1111. *(Appendix II.)*

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